

An open book with aged, stained pages and a fountain pen resting on the left page. The pages are yellowed with water damage and have irregular, torn edges. The fountain pen is dark brown with a silver nib. The book is set against a dark wood background.

Dear Friends,

The month of November is slipping away far too quickly, and the busy-ness of the approaching seasons is fast upon us. People are making plans for Thanksgiving (don't forget we will have one Mass that day at 10:00 a.m.!), talking about Christmas shopping, and continuing to try to keep up with the pace of life we keep setting for ourselves. (Even this bulletin is being created two weeks in advance because of the publishers' schedule.)

Our Gospel passage today is an apt one for this busy time. It reminds us what we truly need to do: to prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of the Lord – into our lives each day, AND His coming in glory at the end of the world.

What are the ways we are preparing? Do we take time each day to pray? Do we read a passage of Scripture each day? Do we give ourselves a moment of calm and quiet in the presence of our God, trying to put our busy-ness aside just to have a brief encounter with Christ (my usual example of simply sitting with a cup of coffee or tea with Jesus).

May our days never be so crammed that we don't make time for the Lord. He is the source of every blessing, even the gift of calm, patience and peace. Let us open ourselves to the graces that Jesus wishes to give us, and may we always offer thanks and praise to God.

*Father Fred*